

Present: Dwight Baker; Hans Brandal; Dick Burkhardt; John Coney, Chair; Ray Day, Jr.; Dave Elliott; John Jensen; Sandy Paul-Lyle; Holly Plackett; Anirudh Sahni, Vice Chair; Joan Sells

Excused: Andy Bennett; Joan Sells; Mike Taylor

Staff: Barbara de Michele, Community Relations Planner; Doug Hodson, KCDOT Policy and Government Relations Liaison

Guest: Jan Drago, Seattle City Council Transportation Chair

Chair John Coney called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. He announced that Anirudh Sahni, vice chair, would lead the meeting since Anirudh will be leaving for an extended trip to India during his tenure as chair later this year. Sahni immediately introduced guest speaker Jan Drago.

City of Seattle Transportation Plans

Drago opened her remarks by introducing the revised "Bridging the Gap" proposal that may be on the November ballot for Seattle voters. The proposal has been scaled back from \$1.8 billion to \$365 million raised over a 9-year levy period. The money will be used to maintain arterials, rehabilitate bridges, make pedestrian improvements in school zones, plant trees, increase transit hours, install pedestrian signals and support neighborhood projects. Drago explained that the city has deferred road and sidewalk maintenance for nearly 20 years, compounded by 1999's I-695 and the 2002 recession which caused the city to lose \$150 million in revenues.

When asked about the city's park and ride policy, Drago said that the Seattle city council has generally opposed them within city limits. The council wants to support density near bus stops and transit centers, and park and rides are not considered "density." Coney pointed out that many areas of Seattle resemble suburbs and might benefit from park and ride structures. Drago said that there are many de facto park and rides, such as church and retail parking lots, and she favored using existing parking spaces.

Drago said that she has been working hard to find a solution to the SR520 bridge replacement. The executive committee went through an exercise to determine the areas on which they agreed, including lidding, narrowing the footprint, neighborhood decision-making, and noise barriers. She believes the final structures will be a six-lane bridge with a seventh lane set aside for transit, BRT or future light rail.

Asked about advertising on bus shelters, Drago said that the council had earlier adamantly opposed it. However, she pointed out that that was a different council under different circumstances. She said she doubted there was a consensus on the subject now. Coney pointed out that the City could control, through contract, the content and look of the advertising. He also said that sponsorship was an alternative to advertising. Drago agreed that it might be worth another try to put the issue in front of the council.

TAC Meeting Notes

September 12, 2006

Page 2



King County

On the Alaskan Way Viaduct, Drago favors the tunnel option along with most of the council. They recently sent their preference to the Governor, who will be sending a recommendation to the legislature. The Seattle City Council also said that, absent funding for the tunnel option, it would prefer the surface and transit option. They are not interested in maintaining or re-building the AWW.

After an hour of discussion, Sahni thanked Drago for taking the time to be with us and answer questions. She received a round of applause.

BNSF Right of Way Status

Hodson discussed the status of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail line. The County is negotiating with BNSF to purchase this 40-mile rail corridor (with a seven-mile spur) from Woodinville to Renton. Hodson said the County and BNSF have been negotiating for some time and are approaching a firm offer. PSRC is also studying this issue and has formed an advisory committee to come up with recommendations for what the corridor could be used for.

BNSF is interested in selling the corridor because its retail customers along the line have disappeared over the past twenty years. It is running about one train per day at this time.

Money for the right of way purchase could come from several sources – federal, state and local – and King County would apply for the funding once negotiations are complete. Right now, the County is using a small amount of funding for negotiations and to conduct due diligence.

Sound Transit Phase II letter

Members edited a letter to the Sound Transit board drafted by John Coney. They approved the letter, but asked Plackett to re-write the first paragraph on their behalf before it is sent out. (See attached final version).

CAC Conference

Sahni will represent the TAC at the state Citizen Advisory Committee conference in the Tri-Cities. Members reviewed a PowerPoint presentation put together by de Michele and Sahni and made several suggestions for improvements. Members also asked de Michele to explore whether or not Metro could host this event some time in the future.

Vice Chair

Brandal was elected vice-chair and will serve as chair in January, February and March.

Adjournment

Sahni adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

TAC Meeting Notes

September 12, 2006

Page 3



King County

September 20, 2006

Board of Directors

Sound Transit

401 South Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Directors:

The King County Transit Advisory Committee recently received a presentation regarding Sound Transit II from Planner Matt Shelden. We appreciated the time he spent with us, along with a very well-organized presentation. During the month of September, as Sound Transit conducts outreach on the Sound Transit Phase II proposal, members of the King County Transit Advisory Committee would like to submit the following various remarks that arose from our discussion of the presentation.

- The First Hill Link Light Rail Station was a promised element of the Sound Transit Phase I plan. That station has been eliminated and is being replaced with a streetcar link between First Hill and the Broadway/John Street Link Rail Station. However, this replacement project is being proposed for Sound Transit Phase II. We ask that this link **be put back into Sound Transit Phase I funding**. Leaving this project in Sound Transit Phase II funding means that one of the Northwest's major hospital districts will be years without rapid transit.
- We ask that the Sound Transit Board exercise caution before buying smaller parcels of land in anticipation of transit construction for a future, unfunded phase. Buying up land, but not developing it, reduces the value of the surrounding parcels and punches a hole in a neighborhood. Vacant land in a neighborhood business district and land with short-term tenants is not a community asset.
- We suggest that Sound Transit work with the King County Executive to determine the future inter-city transit potential of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad right of way along the east side of Lake Washington.
- We believe that bus stops should be in locations where a transit center could be developed for integrated service with King County Metro buses. In addition, Sound Transit should strongly encourage the City of Seattle to study setting aside property for Park and Rides as part of some of these centers.

The King County Transit Advisory Committee strongly supports Metro and Sound Transit working together to create a seamless transportation system for greater King County. We look forward to seeing the proposal that will go before voters.

Sincerely,

D. John Coney, Chair

King County Metro Transit Advisory Committee

TAC Meeting Notes

September 12, 2006

Page 4



King County

CC: The Honorable Ron Sims, King County Executive
The Honorable Dow Constantine, King County Council
The Honorable Julia Patterson, King County Council
The Honorable Larry Phillips, King County Council
The Honorable Pete von Reichbauer, King County Council
Harold Taniguchi, Director, King County Department of Transportation (KCDOT)
Laurie Brown, Deputy Director, KCDOT
Kevin Desmond, General Manager, KCDOT Metro Transit Division
Victor Obeso, Deputy General Manager, KCDOT Metro Transit Division
Betty Gullledge-Bennett, Manager, KCDOT Community Relations and
Communications